Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 807

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USDEL 001

FOR USOAS, EUR/CAN, L, INR/DFR/RGE

EO 11652: NA TAGS: OCON OAS

SUBJ: SAN JOSE CONFERENCE RIO TREATY AREA OF COVERAGE

1. TAYLOR AND GANTZ DISCUSSED WITH CANADIAN OBSERVER HIGHAM REVISED MAPS OF AREA OF COVERAGE FOR INCORPORATION IN PROTOCOL. (COPIES OF MAPS PREPARED BY PERMANENT COUNCIL WERE SENT TO DOD/ISA, L AND GEOGRAPHER.) HIGHAM INDICATED THAT TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE GOC TERRITIORIAL CLAIMS EXTEND TO NORTH POLE; HE ALSO SUGGESTED WESTERN BOUNDARY IN ARTIC SHOULD

BEGIN AT 141 DEG. WEST LONGITUDE RATHER THAT 140. HIGHAM SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD PERMIT HIM TO SPEAK BRIEFLY IF ASKED TO DO SO, INDICATING ONLY THAT GOC'S DECISION NOT TO SPEAK SUBSTANTIVELY ON THE AREA OF COVERAGE SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS GOC ACCEPTANCE OF AREA OF COVERAGE AS DEFINITIVE WITH RESPECT TO GOC CLAIMS.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO 1) EXTENT OF KNOWN GOC CLAIMS IN POLE AREA AND TO WEST, AND 2) WHETHER USG HAS ACCEPTED OR IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THOSE CLAIMS. HIGHAM INDICATED THAT, IF AND WHEN GOC MIGHT DECIDE TO BECOME PARTY TO RIO TREATY, PROCESS WOULD BE FACILITATED SOMEWHAT IF AREA OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COVERAGE ACCEPTABLE TO GOC WITH RESPECT TO CANADIAN TERRI-

TORIAL CLAIMS. WHILE REALIZING THIS IS NOT A MAJOR ISSUE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WE ARE INCLINED TO SHARE THIS VIEW, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK FOR MODIFICATIONS OF MAP IF THE USG IS NOT IN DISAGREEMENT WITH THE EXTENT OF THE GOC CLAIM.

3. WE BELIEVE MAPS 1, 4 AND "9(ONLY ONES APPROVED BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE) ACCEPTABLE TO USG, THOUGH WE HOPE TO EXPAND HIGH-SEAS COVERAGE NEAR SOUTHEASTERN US COAST, WHERE WE WOULD PREFER TO BRING MAJOR US-LA SHIPPING LINES WITHIN REVISED AREA.
TODMAN

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